CLAIMS:

1. A recursive motion vector estimation method, comprising the steps of:
generating (E) a plurality of candidate vectors from stored vectors (PV);
selecting (E) one of these candidate vectors to generate a selected vector (d^1);
generating (REF) a plurality of test vectors from the selected vector (d^1);
selecting (REF) one of the test vectors to generate an output vector (d^2); and
storing (MEM) the output vector (d^2).

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of generating a plurality of test vectors from the selected vector (d^1) includes the step of adding –1, 0, or +1 to each component of the selected vector (d^1).

3. A device for recursive motion vector estimation, the device comprising:
means (E) for generating a plurality of candidate vectors from stored vectors;
means (E) for selecting one of these candidate vectors to generate a selected vector (d^1);
means (REF) for generating a plurality of test vectors from the selected vector (d^1);
means (REF) for selecting one of the test vectors to generate an output vector (d^2); and
means (MEM) for storing the output vector (d^2).